ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

2015-16 Business Plan

1. DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

MISSION

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations is responsible for negotiating, implementing and monitoring land, resources and self-government agreements, including Treaty Land Entitlements; managing the GNWT's relationship with the federal government and with provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments and circumpolar countries, in all matters of intergovernmental significance; and providing government-wide strategic advice on matters pertaining to federal-provincial-territorial-Aboriginal relations.

GOALS

1. The conclusion of land, resources and self-government agreements in a manner that respects the inherent right of self-government and ensures an overall effective, affordable and workable system of governance, capable of providing an adequate and comparable level of quality programs and services to all NWT residents.

2. The successful ongoing implementation and monitoring of land, resources and self-government agreements by ensuring all GNWT obligations within the agreements are met.

3. Constructive and co-operative intergovernmental relations with federal, provincial, territorial, Aboriginal and foreign governments that are based on mutual respect.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Aboriginal Relations

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has articulated a renewed focus on building, maintaining and strengthening its relationships with Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories (NWT). This is most clearly reflected in the 17th Legislative Assembly's vision titled "Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners", and the public statement of *"Respect, Recognition, Responsibility: The Government of the Northwest Territories' Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal Governments"* ("Respect, Recognition, Responsibility").

Continuing to strengthen the GNWT's bilateral relations with Aboriginal governments is an integral part of the GNWT's commitments, and is supported by DAAIR's continuing work to advance the negotiation of formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Aboriginal governments that outline matters of mutual interest related to intergovernmental cooperation

and coordination. To date, DAAIR has completed four MOUs with Aboriginal governments, which have helped to formalize and advance the GNWT's government-to-government relations with the Akaitcho Dene First Nation; Gwich'in Tribal Corporation; Tłı̨chǫ Government; and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. DAAIR will continue to work closely with the GNWT's Aboriginal government partners, and will enter into other agreements and protocols, including other MOUs with other Aboriginal governments.

Fulfilling the GNWT's objective of building and maintaining stronger Aboriginal government relations involves a coordinated effort amongst all GNWT departments. Having the primary responsibility for the government-wide coordination and implementation of "Respect, Recognition, Responsibility", DAAIR will need to ensure that its organizational structure is effectively aligned so that appropriate leadership and support is provided across multiple GNWT departments.

Devolution Implementation

As a result of Devolution, DAAIR has assumed the responsibility for the overall coordination of implementing the Devolution Final Agreement, as well as for the administration of two pieces of devolution-implementation legislation – the *Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement Act*, and the *Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management Act*.

The management and administration of these vital pieces of legislation includes a responsibility to establish the Intergovernmental Council, which is a key forum for the collaborative management of land and resources between the GNWT and its Aboriginal government partners who are signatories to the Devolution Final Agreement. The Intergovernmental Council will provide a territorial-wide perspective on resource management issues, will allow governments to share ideas and discuss common priorities and interests, and will greatly benefit all parties as the GNWT considers potential changes to lands and resources management in the NWT. This forum will also allow the parties to explore ways to harmonize their respective land and resource management practices, share capacity and avoid duplication.

Lead Role in Land and Resource Negotiations

With the expanded scope of authority and responsibilities under Devolution, DAAIR has assumed a more pronounced role at land claim negotiations in respect of matters related to land, water and non-renewable resources. This means the GNWT will need to develop its own interests and positions on how resources and Crown land are used and developed in the NWT. An important pressure on Crown land in the NWT is land selection by Aboriginal groups pursuing comprehensive land claims in the NWT. In addition to developing and refining its negotiating mandates on certain land and resource aspects of negotiations, DAAIR will also need to develop the skills and capacity to participate in, and even lead, land selection negotiations.

Consultation Support

With significantly expanded jurisdictions under Devolution, the GNWT is faced with broader and more expansive consultation obligations relating to land and non-renewable resources. As part of Devolution, the Aboriginal Consultation Unit (ACU) was transferred from the Department of Justice to DAAIR. The ACU supports all GNWT departments in meeting their consultation obligations through training, maintaining resources for GNWT staff, and providing advice and guidance on consultation activities. DAAIR will also be undertaking strength of claim work to help inform the GNWT's understanding of the scope of Aboriginal and treaty rights in the NWT, and to ensure that consultation activities are aligned with this understanding.

2. RESOURCE SUMMARY

Departmental Summary

(thousands of dollars)

	Proposed 2015-16 Main Estimates	2014-15 Revised Estimates	2014-15 Main Estimates	2013-14 Actuals
Operations Expenses by Activity				
Corporate Management	4,018	4,148	4,142	3,981
Negotiations	2,609	2,640	2,640	2,026
Implementation	723	706	706	535
Intergovernmental Relations	1,990	1,707	1,707	1,616
Total Operations Expense by Activity	**9,340**	**9,201**	**9,195**	**8,158**
Operations Expenses by Object				
Compensation and Benefits	6,486	6,398	6,397	5,238
Grants and Contributions	1,555	1,495	1,495	1,692
Other	1,299	1,308	1,303	1,228
Amortization	-	-	-	-
Total Operations Expenses by Object	**9,340**	**9,201**	**9,195**	**8,158**
Revenues	-	-	-	-

Human Resources Summary

	Proposed 2015-16 Main Estimates	2014-15 Revised Estimates	2014-15 Main Estimates	2013-14 Actuals
Yellowknife Headquarters	43	44	44	42
Regional / Area Offices	-	-	-	-
Other Communities	-	-	-	-
Total Number of Positions	43	44	44	42

KEY ACTIVITY 1 – CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Description

The **Directorate** manages the internal operations of the department and provides strategic advice and support to the Minister. The division administers the grants and contributions program available to Aboriginal governments and organizations.

The **Women's Advisory** unit supports the Minister Responsible for Women, and serves as a point of contact within the GNWT for governmental and non-governmental organizations that enhance the cultural, economic, political and social participation of women in society.

The **Policy, Planning and Communications** division provides policy and communications advice, information and assistance to the department, and coordinates the department's financial, human resources and business planning activities, as well as administers all records management. The division leads the development and review of negotiating mandates that guide GNWT negotiating teams at all land, resources and self-government negotiations. The division supports the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations in the context of federal-provincial-territorial-Aboriginal (FPTA) relations, with particular focus on the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group.

Responding to the Goals and Priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly

Priority: *Strengthening our Relationships with Aboriginal and Other Northern Governments*
Understanding Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in the NWT, a public awareness campaign consisting of a series of brochures, was concluded in June 2013. In September 2013, a printed version of these brochures was produced in publication format and made available to the public. This publication will serve as the foundation for DAAIR's continued efforts to increase NWT residents' understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal rights.

Priority: *Implementing the Devolution Final Agreement*
Effective April 1, 2014, DAAIR assumed the responsibility for ensuring the effective ongoing implementation of devolution plans and agreements as well as the alignment of devolution implementation with intergovernmental relations strategies. This includes the creation and ongoing leadership of the Intergovernmental Council and future negotiations related to the Devolution Agreement and additional responsibilities under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA).

The Devolution Final Agreement provides for the negotiation of an agreement among the GNWT and Aboriginal Parties, setting out a government-to-government relationship, which provides for coordination and cooperation with respect to the management of Public Lands and Settlement Lands and rights in respect of Waters. The inclusion of the Intergovernmental Council is meant to address the unique situation of the territory, with many landholders, including Aboriginal governments and the GNWT. While the Intergovernmental Council may at

some point establish an independent secretariat, in the interim, its work is supported and administered by the department, currently through the Aboriginal Consultation and Relations division.

On May 26, 2014, the Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADK) and Fort Liard Métis Local #67, the Salt River First Nation (SRFN) and the Denínu Kų́ę́ First Nation (DKFN) signed on to become new parties to the Devolution Final Agreement. DAAIR will continue to engage with all remaining Aboriginal governments in the spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility with the goal of meeting the GNWT's objective of having full Aboriginal government participation in the Devolution Final Agreement.

In February 2014, the GNWT along with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government concluded and signed the *Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement*. The new signatories from May 26, 2014 have also signed on to the *Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement*. DAAIR will work with the responsible departments in fulfilling the components of the agreement to ensure the timely distribution of resource revenues among participating Aboriginal governments.

Departmental Highlights

Directorate

A key activity of the Directorate is the coordination and management of Devolution-implementation activities, which includes the establishment of the Intergovernmental Council; managing the addition of further Aboriginal parties to the Devolution Final Agreement; working with Canada to amend Environmental Agreements between Aboriginal groups and the diamond mines and implement changes to MVRMA; and managing the negotiations of funding and establishment of the Surface Rights Board as required by the *Surface Rights Board Act*, and funding for the Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP).

Women's Advisory

The Women's Advisory unit will administer grants and contributions provided to non-profit groups; will collaborate with federal, provincial and territorial Status of Women officials on initiatives and events of joint interest; and will work with non-government partners to address priority issues around women's equality in the NWT, including dealing with family violence, supporting women in leadership in non-traditional occupations and encouraging women's participation in the electoral and political process.

The Women's Advisory unit represents the GNWT working with federal, provincial and territorial Status of Women officials in supporting the joint work of Status of Women Ministers. On June 19-20, 2014, the GNWT Minister Responsible for Women hosted the 32nd Annual Meeting of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women in Dettah. The Women's Advisory unit worked with the federal government co-chair to develop

the agenda and hold a successful meeting which included presentations by the Deputy Commissioner of the RCMP, local NGO's addressing family violence in the NWT, and organizations representing women in the trades and mining sectors. Work with FPT officials is ongoing leading up to the 2015 Meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women to be hosted by Manitoba.

Policy, Planning and Communications

As milestones at certain land, resources and self-government negotiations approach, DAAIR will continue to conduct mandate compliance reviews on draft agreements. The department will also continue to undertake work to bring forward proposals for new and revised negotiating mandates to address emerging issues at land, resources and self-government negotiations in the NWT. This includes developing and refining the GNWT's negotiating mandates on certain land and resource aspects of negotiations stemming from DAAIR's expanded scope of authority and responsibility at land claim negotiations.

DAAIR will support the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations in assuming the responsibility for Chairing the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG) for a two-year period commencing in the fall of 2014. The AAWG is comprised of Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs from all provinces and territories and the leaders of five national Aboriginal organizations (NAOs). Chairing the AAWG offers the opportunity to lead a national dialogue on issues impacting Aboriginal peoples across the country. It will also enable the GNWT to highlight innovative initiatives taking place in the NWT within a national forum. DAAIR will work closely with GNWT departments who have mandates connected to the AAWG in order to ensure that interests are clearly and appropriately articulated.

Cross-Departmental Initiatives

Amending Environmental Agreements

The GNWT continues to work with the Federal Government to complete outstanding work, including amending Environmental Agreements between Aboriginal groups and the diamond mines. Work continues with the Federal Government to implement the changes to the MVRMA, including the introduction of timelines in the review process.

Surface Rights Board and Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program

Negotiations will continue in two areas identified in the Devolution Final Agreement as issues flowing from Land Claim Agreements: funding and establishment of the Surface Rights Board as required by the *Surface Rights Board Act*; and, funding for the Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP).

Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Resources

In addition, the department will lead the coordination of work required as negotiations respecting the management of offshore oil and gas resources in the NWT are undertaken, as required by the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement*.

KEY ACTIVITY 2 – NEGOTIATIONS

Description

The **Negotiations** division is responsible for leading the GNWT's participation at land, resources and self-government negotiations in the NWT. Successfully concluding land, resources and self-government agreements throughout the NWT will lay the foundation for attaining political certainty, building mutually respectful intergovernmental relations and realizing the economic potential of the NWT.

Responding to the Goals and Priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly

Priority: ***Strengthening our relationships with Aboriginal and other northern governments***
Aboriginal rights negotiations are underway in all regions of the NWT as Aboriginal governments seek to confirm their Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the NWT. The GNWT, as a full partner to these negotiations, continues to promote workable and affordable agreements that respect Aboriginal rights.

The following progress has been made in finalizing land, resources and self-government agreements:

- Déljnę Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA) is complete. The FSGA was initialled in December 2013. The Déljnę First Nation voters ratified the FSGA in March 2014. The FSGA is expected to be signed in early fall 2014.
- Acho Dene Koe Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) is complete. The AIP was signed in January 2014. Final Agreement negotiations started in April 2014.
- Inuvialuit AIP is complete. The AIP was initialled in June 2014 and is expected to be signed in early fall 2014. Final Agreement negotiations will commence once the AIP is signed.
- Colville Lake, and Fort Good Hope Framework Agreements (FWs) are complete. The FWs are expected to be signed in early fall 2014. Self-Government AIPs negotiations will commence once the FWs are signed.

DAAIR will continue to represent the GNWT at all land, resources and self-government negotiations in the NWT. While the progress of each table is dependent on the collaborative efforts of all parties to negotiations, the department will continue to make progress at the following tables:

- *Exploratory Negotiations / Discussions in Advance of a Framework Agreement*
  - First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Transboundary Negotiations
  - Kátł'odeeche First Nation Community-Based Negotiations

- *Negotiations Leading to the Conclusion of an Agreement-in-Principle*
  - Colville Lake Self-Government Negotiations
  - Fort Good Hope Self-Government Negotiations

- Gwich'in Self-Government Negotiations
- Tulita Self-Government Negotiations
- Norman Wells Land Corporation Self-Government Negotiations
- Dehcho First Nations Land, Resources and Self-Government Negotiations
- Akaitcho Dene First Nations Land, Resources and Self-Government Negotiations
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation Land, Resources and Self-Government Negotiations

➢ *Negotiations Leading to the Conclusion of a Final Agreement*
- Inuvialuit Self-Government Negotiations
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation Phase I Land, Resources and Self-Government Negotiations
- Manitoba Denesuline Transboundary Negotiations
- Athabasca Denesuline Transboundary Negotiations

Departmental Highlights

With the expanded scope of authorities and responsibilities under Devolution, DAAIR has assumed a more pronounced role at land claim negotiations in respect of matters related to land, water and non-renewable resources. In additional to developing and refining its negotiating mandates on certain land and resource aspects of negotiations, DAAIR will need to continue to develop the skills and capacity to participate in, and even lead, land selection negotiations.

DAAIR is also responsible for discharging the GNWT's duty to consult Aboriginal groups whose asserted or established Aboriginal or treaty rights may be adversely impacted by the negotiation of land, resources and self-government agreements. Given the number of important milestones reached at several sets of negotiations, the Negotiation division's work to discharge the GNWT's legal duty to consult has been dramatically increased.

Cross-Departmental Initiatives

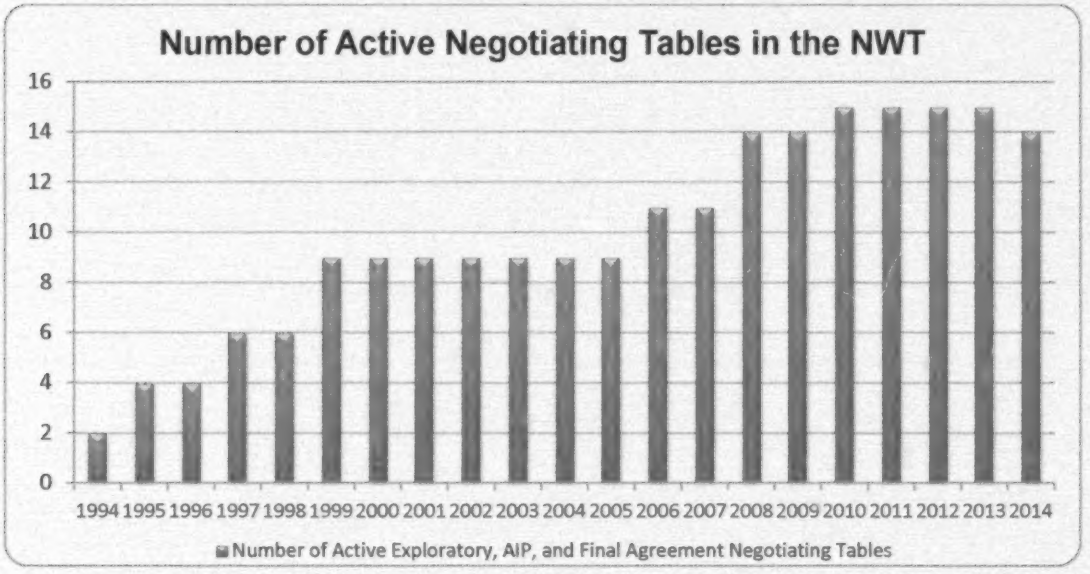
Managing This Land Ministers' Committee
DAAIR continues to provide support and advice to the *Managing This Land* Ministers' Committee so that decision making on land issues respects the negotiation and conclusion of Aboriginal rights agreements as well as territorial interests.

Thaidene Nene Working Group
DAAIR continues to provide support and advice to the Thaidene Nene Working Group so that decisions on the Thaidene Nene National Park Boundary, and any decisions about land use adjacent to the proposed park, respect the negotiation and conclusion of Aboriginal rights agreements as well as territorial interests.

Performance Indicators:

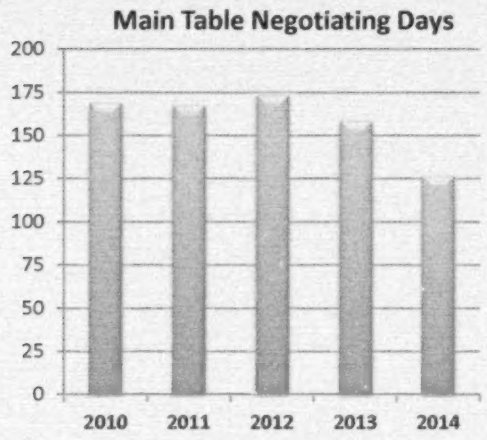
- Progress is made toward the successful conclusion of land, resources and self-government agreements in the NWT that are workable, affordable and respectful of Aboriginal rights
- Successfully fulfilling the GNWT's legal duty to consult on milestone agreements reached at negotiations

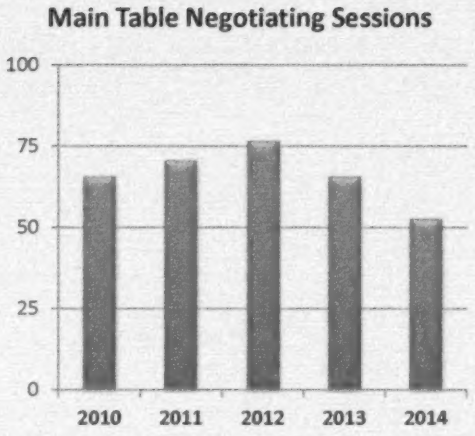
Measure 1
Number of Active Negotiations


Number of Active Negotiating Tables in the NWT
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Number of Active Exploratory, AIP, and Final Agreement Negotiating Tables

Across Canada, Aboriginal rights negotiations take, on average, approximately 20 years to complete. Negotiations in the NWT reflect this trend. Regional land and resources negotiations, fulfilling commitments to negotiate community-based self-government agreements, and increased interest from non-resident Aboriginal groups to settle their Aboriginal and treaty rights in the NWT have increased DAAIR's workload over the last several years. With the completion of Déljnę Final Self-Government Agreement negotiations in 2013-14, the number of active negotiating tables in the NWT is now at 14.

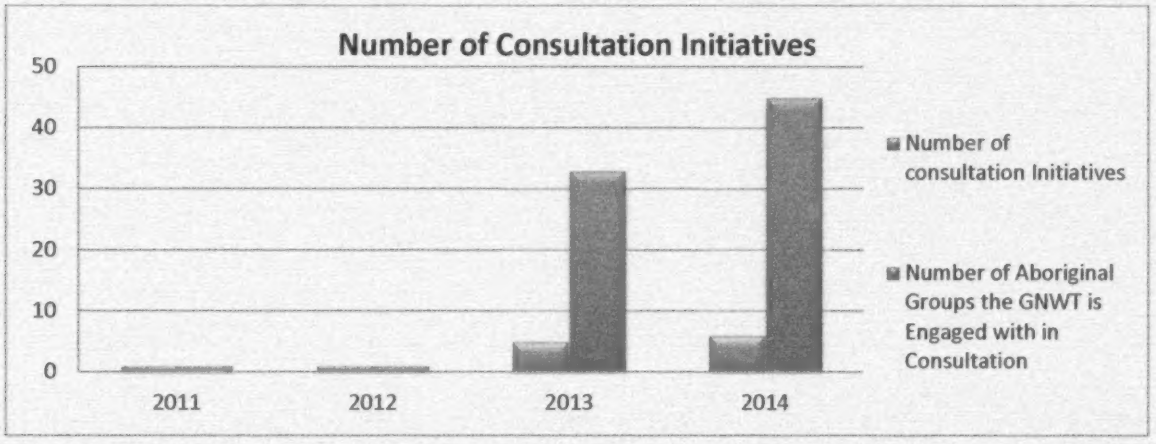
Measure 2
Number of Negotiating Sessions Attended





With the increase in the number of negotiating tables from 9 in 2005 to 15 in 2013, there has been a corresponding increase in the overall volume of activity for the department. When an important milestone is reached at a particular table, the number of main table negotiation sessions decrease as the volume of activity at that table shifts to the work of discharging the GNWT's legal duty to consult other potentially affected Aboriginal rights holders.

Measure 3
Number of Consultation Initiatives Engaged In



In February 2012, a Federal Court decision clarified that the section 35 duty to consult Aboriginal rights holders regarding land, resources and self-government negotiations that have the potential to infringe upon their rights is triggered at the beginning of the negotiating process. Since this decision, a number of important milestones have been reached at several sets of land, resources and self-government agreements. Consequently, the department has experienced a dramatic increase in its work to discharge the GNWT's legal duty to consult.

KEY ACTIVITY 3 – IMPLEMENTATION

Description

The **Implementation** division is responsible for negotiating implementation plans, financing agreements and joint program and service delivery arrangements associated with land, resources and self-government agreements. The division is also responsible for monitoring and facilitating ongoing GNWT implementation obligations and activities pursuant to settled land, resources and self-government agreements, and representing the GNWT on trilateral Implementation Committees tasked with monitoring and coordinating the overall implementation of the agreements.

Responding to the Goals and Priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly

Priority: *Strengthening our Relationships with Aboriginal and Other Northern Governments*

The GNWT is participating in the development of implementation plans to accompany land, resources and self-government agreements currently under active negotiation. Work on a multilateral implementation plan to accompany the Manitoba Denesuline transboundary agreement was initiated in 2014-15 and a draft plan for approval by the parties is expected to be completed in 2015-16. The development of tripartite implementation plans to accompany an Inuvialuit Self-government agreement and an Acho Dene Koe Phase I Land, Resources and Self-government Agreement began in 2014-15 and work is expected to progress towards substantial completion of draft plans in 2015-16.

Together with its treaty partners, the GNWT is in the process of finalizing implementation plans to accompany the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. The plans, which set the required actions and timing guidelines for the orderly and timely fulfillment of treaty obligations for the third ten-year implementation period of the agreements, are expected to be approved and in place in early 2015-16. In May 2014, the parties began the process of reviewing and revising the implementation plan that will accompany the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement for the period 2015-16 to 2025-26.

Joint program and service delivery arrangements may be utilized by the parties to self-government agreements to facilitate the participation of Aboriginal governments in program and service delivery and to allow for a period of capacity building in preparation for the full exercise of self-government jurisdictions and the assumption of program and service delivery responsibilities. In 2015-16, the GNWT will continue discussions and may commence negotiations with Aboriginal governments interested in pursuing joint program and service delivery arrangements as part of their initial self-government arrangements.

The 10-year Intergovernmental Services Agreement that accompanies the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement will expire in August 2015. The GNWT will continue to work collaboratively with its treaty partners on the renewal of an amended agreement that will advance the self-government aspirations of Tłı̨chǫ Citizens while providing for the efficient and effective delivery of programs and services to all residents of the region.

Priority: ***Implementing the Devolution Final Agreement***

Under the Devolution Final Agreement, the GNWT assumed responsibility for the fulfillment of many land and resource-related treaty obligations that formerly rested with the federal government. Draft implementation plans for the Gwich'in Comprehensive Claim Agreement and the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement have been revised to reflect the transfer of responsibility for the activities required to fulfill obligations set out in Schedule 2 of the Devolution Final Agreement which were formerly fulfilled by Canada. The new implementation plan to be completed in 2015-16 to accompany the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement will reflect territorial activities required to fulfill these transferred responsibilities.

Departmental Highlights

Effectively implementing land, resources and self-government agreements requires the ongoing commitment of all of the parties to an agreement. To ensure that the obligations and objectives set out in settled agreements are realized, the Implementation Division monitors the ongoing completion by Departments of the activities required to fulfill territorial obligations, and participates in tripartite implementation committees to discuss and resolve ongoing challenges and barriers to the effective implementation of agreements.

In fulfilling this role, the division provides support, information and guidance to Departments on matters related to treaty implementation, and relays successes and challenges encountered by the GNWT in fulfilling its obligations to its treaty partners. This two pronged approach to implementation has helped to ensure that the GNWT's one-time and time-specific obligations are completed and that ongoing obligations continue to be respected.

Recognizing that joint program and service delivery arrangements may play a key role in the implementation of self-government agreements, the GNWT will continue to evaluate program and service delivery models that may be appropriate in different self-government contexts and supportive of the self-government aspirations of NWT Aboriginal governments.

The GNWT is presently waiting for Canada to present the details of its *Fiscal Harmonization* initiative, which will outline a new federal approach to the financing of Aboriginal self-governments. In the interim, the GNWT will continue to articulate the key features of its own approach to self-government financing.

Cross-Departmental Initiatives

Tłı̨chǫ Intergovernmental Services Agreement

Working in collaboration with the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services and Justice, DAAIR is assessing approaches to program and service delivery under the Tłı̨chǫ Intergovernmental Services Agreement (ISA) following it initial 10-year term. The Tłı̨chǫ ISA, which established the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency, expires in August 2015.

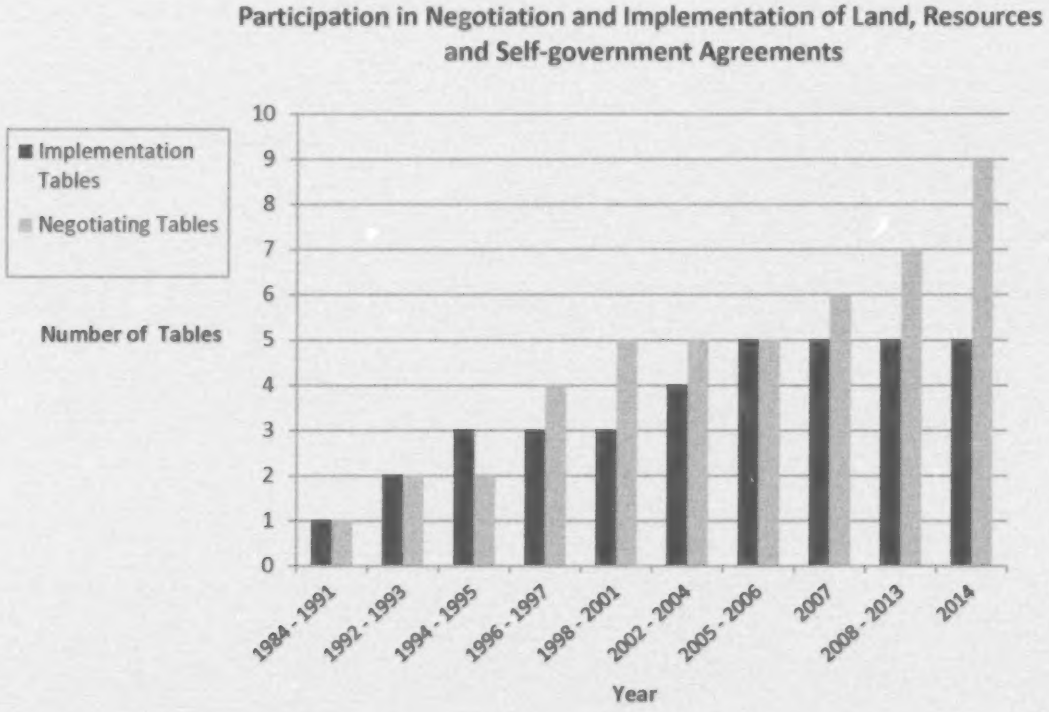
Performance Measures

Performance Indicators:

- Progress is made in finalizing implementation plans, financing agreements and joint program and service delivery arrangements associated with land, resources and self-government agreements in the NWT
- Ongoing GNWT implementation obligations and activities pursuant to settled land, resources and self-government agreements are met

Measure 1

Number of Negotiation and Implementation Tables Participated In



Measure 2
Milestones reached in negotiating implementation plans and fiscal agreements

The trilateral Déljnę Implementation Working Group concluded the development of a pre-effective date plan to guide the completion of pre-effective date obligations set out in both the Déljnę AIP and Final Self-government Agreement.

As the negotiation of land, resources and self-government agreements advance, fiscal and implementation working groups were formed at three tables to conclude the text of financing chapters, discuss the approaches of each party to financial arrangements or begin work on pre-effective date and implementation plans.

Measure 3
Number of GNWT-related issues brought before Implementation Committees for resolution

Status reports and implementation committee minutes illustrate that there are currently no outstanding GNWT issues under any land, resources and self-government agreements.

KEY ACTIVITY 4 – INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Description

The **Intergovernmental Relations** division promotes and advances the GNWT's commitment to develop and maintain mutually respectful intergovernmental relations between the GNWT and federal, provincial, territorial, and international governments. In doing so, the division protects, develops and promotes the interests and aspirations of NWT residents in the GNWT's intergovernmental relations activities.

The **Aboriginal Consultation and Relations** division promotes and advances the GNWT's commitment to develop and maintain mutually respectful intergovernmental relations between the GNWT and Aboriginal governments and is also responsible for the provision of advice to all departments in relation to meeting the GNWT's duty to consult. As part of its role in Aboriginal intergovernmental relations, the division is responsible for providing support to the Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management.

Responding to the Goals and Priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly

Priority: *Strengthening our Relationships with Aboriginal and Other Northern Governments*
The Intergovernmental Relations division continues to support the Premier and Ministers in strengthening the GNWT's relationship with the federal government. The GNWT's Federal Engagement Strategy includes the cornerstone document, *The NWT and Canada: the Power of Partnership*, outlining the 17th Assembly's and the GNWT's key federal priorities was shared with the Prime Minister and key federal Ministers in August 2012.

NWT Days in Ottawa, an important part of the GNWT's federal engagement activities, were held from January 30 to February 1, 2013. *NWT Days in Ottawa* consisted of a series of events aimed at advancing the GNWT's key priorities with the federal government and other stakeholders, and to introduce southern Canadians to the cultural diversity, traditions and tourism opportunities in the NWT. The GNWT is currently considering its approach for potential *NWT Days in Ottawa* events in 2015 or 2016.

The NWT hosted the Northern Premiers' Forum in Yellowknife in September 2014. Meeting outcomes included the renewal of the *Northern Cooperation Accord* between the three territorial Premiers, as well as the renewal of *A Northern Vision*, a broad collaborative vision for the North developed by the three territories. The GNWT will participate in the 2015 Northern Premiers' Forum, to be hosted and chaired by Nunavut.

In June 2012, the GNWT released *Respect, Recognition, Responsibility: the GNWT's Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal Governments*, outlining the GNWT's public commitment to building and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal governments. In August 2012, an accompanying employee guide titled *Respect, Recognition, Responsibility: a GNWT Employee Guide to Strengthening Relations with Aboriginal Government* was released internally to departments providing key actions to be taken in support of the GNWT's public commitment.

One of the key actions identified in the GNWT's statement of *Respect, Recognition, Responsibility* was the negotiation and signing of bilateral intergovernmental cooperation agreements to formalize the relationship between the GNWT and Aboriginal governments. These bilateral agreements confirm the commitment of both parties to work together to strengthen government-to-government relations, and in so doing, establish a forum and process for leaders to discuss and advance shared concerns. To date, agreements have been signed with the Tłı̨chǫ Government (June 2012), Gwich'in Tribal Council (October 2012), Northwest Territory Métis Nation (November 2012), and Akaitcho Dene First Nation (May 2013). Additional intergovernmental cooperation agreements continue to be pursued with other Aboriginal governments.

The GNWT's Aboriginal Consultation Resource Guide has been updated to reflect the ever evolving case law and best practices in the area of consultation. The revised resource guide ensures that GNWT staff have access to the latest information required to carry out the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation obligations in a coordinated, consistent and legally adequate manner.

Departmental Highlights

Intergovernmental Relations

The Intergovernmental Relations division continues to support the Premier in engaging in intergovernmental forums and meetings with provincial and territorial governments, including the Council of the Federation, the Western Premiers' Conference and the Northern Premiers' Forum, in addition to bilateral meetings with provincial and territorial Premiers.

The Intergovernmental Relations division works with GNWT departments to acquire up-to-date briefings and materials to support the Premier's participation in intergovernmental meetings. The division relies on collaborative relationships with other GNWT departments in order to provide accurate and relevant advice to the Premier. To ensure that Intergovernmental Relations officials work effectively with GNWT departments, the division has revised its approach to working the GNWT departments to provide enhanced support and consistency for departments. This approach includes assigning individual Intergovernmental Relations Analysts to work with each GNWT department, to allow communications to be streamlined and for expertise and relationships to be developed.

Part of the GNWT's joint work with the federal government also centres on involvement in activities related to Canada's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2013-2015). The Intergovernmental Relations division also plays a role in the GNWT's increasing interest in building political and trade relationships with international governments.

The GNWT has been actively involved in the Arctic Council during Canada's two year Chairmanship (May 2013 – May 2015) and helped Canada host Senior Arctic Officials' meetings in Yellowknife in March and October 2014. GNWT will also supported Canada in co-leading an Arctic Council initiative, *Promoting Traditional Ways of Life*, highlighting best practices across the Arctic.

Aboriginal Consultation and Relations

The Aboriginal Consultation and Relations division supports regular bilateral meetings between GNWT Ministers and Aboriginal government leaders, as outlined in the negotiated intergovernmental cooperation agreements. These meetings provide the opportunity for both parties to move forward issues of mutual importance, and for commitments made by Ministers and Leaders to be tracked and followed up on in a timely manner.

The division works with GNWT departments to acquire up-to-date briefings and materials to support the Premier's participation in intergovernmental meetings with Aboriginal governments. The division relies on collaborative relationships with other GNWT departments in order to provide accurate and relevant advice to the Premier.

Work will continue with all GNWT departments to ensure the consistent application of the vision, goals and principles articulated in "Respect, Recognition and Responsibility". To ensure all GNWT managers have a good understanding of this area, DAAIR will also lead the development of a Management Series course covering the topics of Aboriginal relations and Crown Consultation.

DAAIR will continue to provide advice and support to GNWT departments in fulfilling their legal obligation to consult Aboriginal governments and organizations. A key activity of the division is undertaking strength of claim assessments to help inform the GNWT's understanding of the scope of Aboriginal and treaty rights in the NWT, and to ensure that consultation activities are aligned with this understanding.

DAAIR will also continue to work with GNWT departments to deliver training on the effective approaches to meeting the GNWT's legal obligation to consult with Aboriginal governments.

Cross-Departmental Initiatives

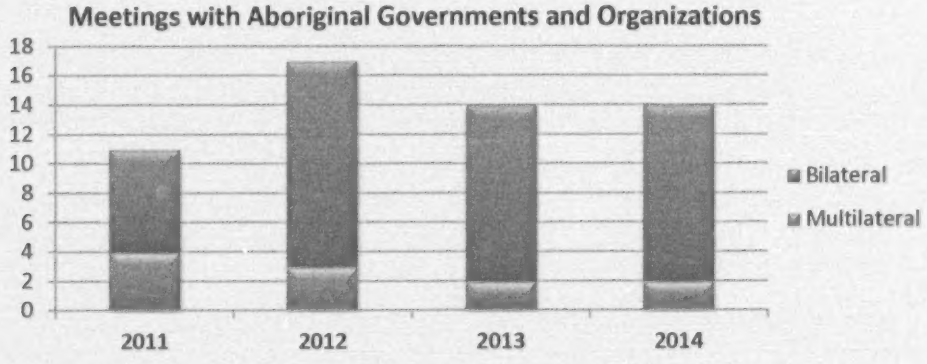
GNWT Trade Mission to China

DAAIR collaborated with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and the Canadian Embassy in China to plan and participate in a GNWT trade mission to China in January 2014. The Premier and the Minister of ITI, supported by Canada's Ambassador to China, led a delegation of NWT business representatives and GNWT officials to participate in events surrounding the Beijing Fur Show in order to promote NWT wild fur and to support Canada's Arctic Council priority of promoting traditional ways of life. The Premier and Minister also promoted NWT tourism opportunities and investment in NWT mining projects. Activities included meeting with Chinese government officials (including Ministry of Commerce, National Development Reform Commission, and Ministry of Lands and Resources, and PetroChina), business and tourism luncheons, and media opportunities. The Minister of ITI also traveled to Shanghai and Hong Kong to promote NWT tourism and diamonds.

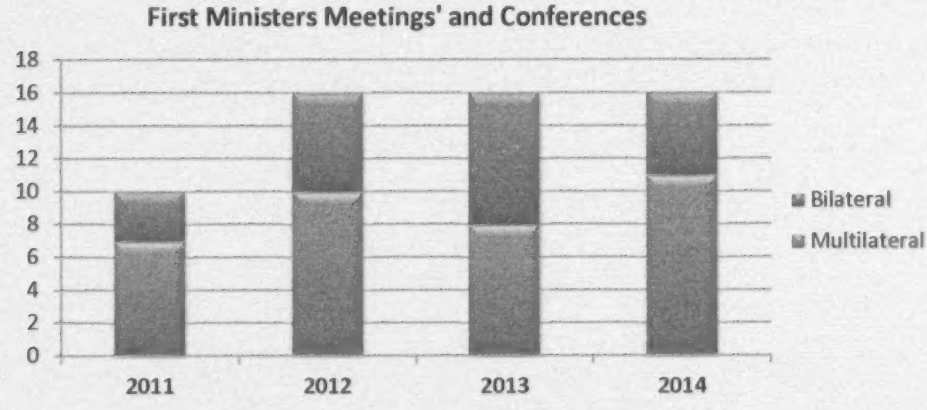
Performance Indicators:

- The principles outlined in the GNWT's approach to engaging Aboriginal governments are promoted and advanced in intergovernmental meetings between the GNWT and Aboriginal governments
- GNWT priorities and objectives are promoted and advanced at major federal, provincial and territorial intergovernmental meetings

Measure 1
Number of Multilateral and Bilateral Meetings with NWT Aboriginal Governments



Measure 2
Number of Other Bilateral and Multilateral Intergovernmental Meetings/Conferences Supported



APPENDICES

Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Appendix I - Financial Information

Schedule 1 - Operations Expense Summary

Schedule 2 - Explanation of Proposed Adjustments to Operations Expenses in 2015-16

Schedule 3 - Major Revenue Changes: 2014-15 Main Estimates to 2015-16 Business Plan

Schedule 4 - Proposed Adjustments to Grants, Contributions & Transfers: 2014-15 Main Estimates to 2015-16 Business Plan

Appendix II - Human Resources Reconciliation

Schedule 1 - Position Changes: 2014-15 Main Estimates to 2015-16 Business Plan

Schedule 2 - Human Resources Statistics

Appendix III - Infrastructure Investments

Operations Expense Summary

Schedule 1

(thousands of dollars)

	2014-15 Main Estimates	PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS						2015-16 Business Plan
		Sunsets	Initiatives	* Forced Growth	Internal Transfers	** Inter-Departmental Transfers and Other Adjustments	Amortization	
Corporate Management								
Directorate	**1,614**	-	-	14	-	33	-	**1,661**
Women's Advisory	**1,023**	-	-	25	27	5	-	**1,080**
Policy, Planning & Communications	**1,505**	-	6	34	(268)	-	-	**1,277**
	4,142	**-**	**6**	**73**	**(241)**	**38**	**-**	**4,018**
Negotiations								
Negotiations	**2,640**	-	5	84	-	(120)	-	**2,609**
	2,640	**-**	**5**	**84**	**-**	**(120)**	**-**	**2,609**
Implementation								
Implementation	**706**	-	-	17	-	-	-	**723**
	706	**-**	**-**	**17**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**723**
Intergovernmental Relations								
Intergovernmental Relations	**1,707**	-	-	29	(789)	-	-	**947**
Aboriginal Consultation & Relations	**-**	-	4	-	1,030	9	-	**1,043**
	1,707	**-**	**4**	**29**	**241**	**9**	**-**	**1,990**
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	**9,195**	**-**	**15**	**203**	**-**	**(73)**	**-**	**9,340**

** Forced Growth amounts include Collective Bargaining increases.*

*** This category includes departmental reductions.*

(thousands of dollars)

		PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS					
	Explanation of Proposed Adjustments	Sunsets	Initiatives	* Forced Growth	Internal Transfers	** Inter-Departmental Transfers and Other Adjustments	Amortization
Corporate Management							
Directorate	Collective Bargaining Increases - Year 4	-	-	14	-	-	-
Directorate	2015-16 Spending Reduction - TSC Chargebacks	-	-	-	-	(2)	-
Directorate	Transfer of Indspire Awards funding from Executive	-	-	-	-	35	-
Women's Advisory	Forced Growth - core funding increases for the Status of Women and Native Women's Association	-	-	25	-	-	-
Women's Advisory	Internal reallocation of resources to support operational requirements	-	-	-	27	-	-
Women's Advisory	Transfer of Women's Advisory Unit to DAAIR, collective bargaining increase	-	-	-	-	5	-
Policy, Planning & Communications	French Language communications and services	-	6	-	-	-	-
Policy, Planning & Communications	Collective Bargaining Increases - Year 4	-	-	34	-	-	-
Policy, Planning & Communications	Transfer of Aboriginal Consultation Unit to Aboriginal Consultation & Relations divisior	-	-	-	(308)	-	-
Policy, Planning & Communications	Internal reallocation of resources to support operational requirements	-	-	-	40	-	-
		-	6	73	(241)	38	-
Negotiations							
Negotiations	Devolution Impact, collective bargaining increase	-	5	-	-	-	-
Negotiations	Collective Bargaining Increases - Year 4	-	-	84	-	-	-
Negotiations	2015-16 Spending Reduction - reduce capacity to participate in land, resources and self-government negotiations	-	-	-	-	(120)	-
		-	5	84	-	(120)	-
Implementation							
Implementation	Collective Bargaining Increases - Year 4	-	-	17	-	-	-
		-	-	17	-	-	-
Intergovernmental Relations							
Intergovernmental Relations	Collective Bargaining Increases - Year 4	-	-	29	-	-	-
Intergovernmental Relations	Transfer of resources to new Aboriginal Consultation & Relations divisior	-	-	-	(722)	-	-
Intergovernmental Relations	Internal reallocation of resources to support operational requirements	-	-	-	(67)	-	-
Aboriginal Consultation & Relations	Internal reallocation of resources to establish new division	-	-	-	1,030	-	-
Aboriginal Consultation & Relations	Devolution Impact, collective bargaining increase	-	4	-	-	-	-
Aboriginal Consultation & Relations	Transfer of Aboriginal Consultation Unit to DAAIR, collective bargaining increase	-	-	-	-	9	-
		-	4	29	241	9	-
TOTAL DEPARTMENT		-	15	203	-	(73)	-

** Forced Growth amounts include Collective Bargaining increases.*

*** This category includes departmental reductions.*

(thousands of dollars)

	PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS				
	2014-15 Main Estimates	2015-16 Business Plan	Increase (Decrease) Proposed	Increase (Decrease) %	Explanation of Increases (Decreases) that are 10% or Greater
GRANT FROM CANADA	-	-	-	-	
TRANSFER PAYMENTS					
Federal Cost-shared	-	-	-	-	
Capital Transfers	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
TAXATION REVENUE					
Personal Income Tax	-	-	-	-	
Corporate Income Tax	-	-	-	-	
Tobacco Tax	-	-	-	-	
Fuel Tax	-	-	-	-	
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	-	
Property Tax and School Levies	-	-	-	-	
Insurance Taxes	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
GENERAL REVENUES					
Revolving Funds Net Revenue	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Regulatory Revenue	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Investment Income	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Lease	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Program	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Grants in Kind	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Service and Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL REVENUE	-	-	-	-	

(thousands of dollars)

			PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS					
	Explanation of Proposed Adjustments	2014-15 Main Estimates	Sunsets	Initiatives	* Forced Growth	Internal Transfers	Inter-Departmental Transfers and Other Adjustments	2015-16 Business Plan
Corporate Management								
Core Funding to Métis Locals	No change	225	-	-	-	-	-	225
Special Events Funding to Aboriginal Organizations	No change	75	-	-	-	-	-	75
Indspire Awards Funding	Transfer from Executive	-	-	-	-	-	35	35
Women's Initiatives Grants	No change	50	-	-	-	-	-	50
Native Women's Association	Forced Growth	416	-	-	10	-	-	426
Status of Women Council	Forced Growth	379	-	-	15	-	-	394
		1,145	-	-	25	-	35	1,205
Intergovernmental Relations								
Aboriginal Intergovernmental Meetings Fund	No change	350	-	-	-	-	-	350
		350	-	-	-	-	-	350
TOTAL DEPARTMENT		1,495	-	-	25	-	35	1,555

Position Changes: 2014-15 Main Estimates to 2015-16 Business Plan

Schedule 1

		REGION / AREA							
	Community	Yellowknife / HQ	North Slave	Tli Cho	South Slave	Deh Cho	Sahtu	Beaufort-Delta	TOTAL
2014-15 Main Estimates		44	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Restatements		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014-15 Restated Main Estimates		44	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Sunsets:		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Initiatives:		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forced Growth:		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Transfers:									
Policy, Planning & Communications									
Manager, Aboriginal Consultation	Yellowknife	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Consultation	Yellowknife	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Intergovernmental Relations									
Director, Intergovernmental Relations	Yellowknife	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	Yellowknife	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Aboriginal Consultation & Relations									
Director, Aboriginal Consultation & Relations	Yellowknife	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Consultation	Yellowknife	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Relations	Yellowknife	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Intergovernmental Relations Analyst	Yellowknife	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interdepartmental Transfers and Other Adjustments									
Senior Negotiator	Yellowknife	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
		(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Increase (decrease)		(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)
Total 2015-16 Business Plan		43	-	-	-	-	-	-	43

	2014-15	%	2013-14	%	2012-13	%	2011-12	%
All Employees	**35**	**100.0%**	**32**	**100.0%**	**33**	**100.0%**	**37**	**100.0%**
Indigenous Employees								
Aboriginal	10	28.6%	11	34.4%	9	27.3%	10	27.0%
Non-Aboriginal	9	25.7%	9	28.1%	11	33.3%	10	27.0%
Non-Indigenous Employees	16	45.7%	12	37.5%	13	39.4%	17	45.9%
Male	15	42.9%	14	43.8%	16	48.5%	16	43.2%
Female	20	57.1%	18	56.3%	17	51.5%	21	56.8%
Senior Management	**6**	**17.1%**	**5**	**15.6%**	**4**	**12.1%**	**5**	**13.5%**
Indigenous Employees								
Aboriginal	2	33.3%	1	20.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Non-Aboriginal	1	16.7%	2	40.0%	2	50.0%	2	40.0%
Non-Indigenous Employees	3	50.0%	2	40.0%	2	50.0%	3	60.0%
Male	3	50.0%	4	80.0%	4	100.0%	4	80.0%
Female	3	50.0%	1	20.0%	-	0.0%	1	20.0%
Non-Traditional Occupations	**-**	**0.0%**	**-**	**0.0%**	**-**	**0.0%**	**-**	**0.0%**
Indigenous Employees								
Aboriginal	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Non-Aboriginal	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Non-Indigenous Employees	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Male	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Female	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%

Appendix III - Infrastructure Investments

The department does not anticipate any infrastructure investments in 2015-16